



## Briefing: update on West Dunbartonshire Youth Alliance (February 2014)

### 1. Background

The West Dunbartonshire Youth Alliance (YA) has continued to make excellent progress over the past year with an ever growing membership. Membership is open/fluid but the key partners currently participating are:

- WDC CL&D Youth Services (Current Lead Service/Chair Mark Conway, Senior Youth Services Worker)
- WDC Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour Team (2-3 representatives)
- Y Sort-it (Lead Organisation/Chair for 2012/13 – solid foundation for development of YA established)
- Tulloch
- West Dunbartonshire CVS (2-3 representatives attend)
- WD CHCP - Social Work/Health (2 representatives but they liaise with other relevant colleagues, depending on the issue)
- WDC Housing/Homelessness
- Police Scotland (1 representative – Local Authority Liaison Officer for WD)
- Education/ MCMC (Hugh Neil represents both); MCMC is one of the key leads in the Youth Employability Partnership.
- Prince's Trust
- CAOS

Other organisations/partners dip in and out as required for specific pieces of work and/or participate in YA short-life working groups.

Membership is reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure that all the right people are round the table.

### 2. Key Achievements to date:

**Strategic Visionary Document:** This has been endorsed by members of the YA and provides a clear statement of what the YA members want to achieve by adding value to existing youth work/youth services in West Dunbartonshire through improved partnership working. An Equalities Impact Assessment for the Strategic Vision Document has been completed, which will be reviewed in a year. The work of the YA also contributes to the delivery of WDC Strategic Plan and WD SOA in relation to improving the life chances of young people.

**Links with Scottish Government level/policy:** At the most recent Youth Alliance meeting, members were trained on the Strategic Guidance for CLD and the new CLD regulations. Members have a clear understanding how the YA intend to deliver on the key pillars from the Strategic Guidance

**Joint training:** linked in with WD CHCP and delivered joint training on sexual health for young people to all youth work staff from the YA. Two training courses were delivered in

August and October 2013 – this action is embedded in WD CHCP Sexual Health Action Plan. YA plan to explore opportunities for more joint training in the future.

**Logic Model/Action Plan:** The Youth Alliance recently met to evaluate their action plan for 2013/2014. The key aims from the plan that were met are:

- Provided a quality coordinated summer programme to run throughout the summer for young people across the authority
- Provided access to joint training programme and up-skilling opportunities for staff involved in the YA
- Created an improved coordinated approach to youth awards/recognition of achievement and organise a joint “Celebrating Success” event to be held in March 2014.
- Piloted a joint coordinated approach to funding via application to Cash Back for Communities with a view to developing this funding approach further. This was taken forward via an existing steering group (“The Pulse” Steering Group) to improve coordination and maximise outcomes – partners included WD Leisure Trust, Y Sort-it, Tulloch, C.A.O.S., CL&D, WD Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour Team

Actions that will be carried over into the new plan:

- Establish a PR/Communications Sub-Group to utilise appropriate media in order to raise the profile of the Youth Alliance
- Establish a funding sub group to utilise available funding streams for partners to access.

### **Summer Programme 2013**

As detailed above, the YA jointly planned, delivered and evaluated a very successful summer programme of activities for young people. The Pulse sub-group took the lead role for the YA to apply for funding from the Cashback to Communities monies which is available from the Scottish Government to provide diversionary activities to young people. We delivered a range of opportunities to young people including DJ nights, Arts and Crafts events, art bus, mosaics etc to name but a few!

### **3. Future Events**

#### **Youth Alliance Special Awards**

The first ever Youth Alliance Special Awards evening will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Dumbarton Football Club. The awards promise to be a great evening with guest speakers, music, various awards and more on the night. Nominations are now open and close on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

#### **Summer Programme 2014**

Plans will soon be in place to run another Summer Programme for 2014 with partners coming together to deliver better outcomes and provision for our young people. The 2013 Summer Programme was a great success and we hope to build on this in 2014.

#### **Calendar of meetings for 2014:**

All meetings will take place on Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm at Dalmuir CEC, Clydebank. *Scheduled dates* are: 20<sup>th</sup> March; 1<sup>st</sup> May; 12<sup>th</sup> June; 24<sup>th</sup> July; 4<sup>th</sup> September; 16<sup>th</sup> October; 27<sup>th</sup> November. Short-life working groups will be arranged as and when required.

#### 4. Further development of YA:

The YA is currently at a very healthy and active stage – as a partnership, it will contribute to improving services and facilities for our local young people. There is a clear commitment from key partners/stakeholders to take forward the YA and members will keep a finger on the pulse to ensure that initial successes continue. However, there are likely to be some issues to explore further in order to ensure sustainability of the youth partnership in the longer term – as there are with all partnerships - so that the YA continues to be fit-for-purpose and contributes to improving outcomes for young people in West Dunbartonshire. Nevertheless, the YA will endeavour to ensure that it fits with the new emerging local community planning structures/processes, as well as continuing to contribute to West Dunbartonshire's SOA.

### West Dunbartonshire Youth Alliance

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